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OCI No. 1739/65

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Office of Current Intelligence
31 May 1965

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

Situation in the Dominican Republic
(Report #252 - As of 7:00 am EDT)

Yesterday was perhaps the quietest day in Santo Domingo since the insurrection began, but the two opposing governments continued their violent war of words against each other and the rebel side has launched what seems to be a concerted campaign to arouse popular hostility against the United States.

There were only six ceasefire violations during the 24-hour period ending at 8:00 pm EDT yesterday and in only two instances did US troops return the fire.

The rebel-controlled radio continued and intensified yesterday its propaganda campaign against the United States. One commentary broadcast yesterday was devoted to stories of alleged US atrocities between 1916 and 1918 when US forces were occupying the Dominican Republic. The program made no reference to any more recent incident, yet concluded with the peroration that "history is being repeated...today as in 1917 Dominican feelings are turning into widespread hostility against the United States."

Rebel leader Caamano, perhaps himself under the influence of the anti-US campaign being assiduously promoted in his camp, asked an Organization of American States' team yesterday to post Latin American, not US, troops in the National Palace if the palace becomes neutralized through an extension of the International Safety Zone. He explained that "there is too much hatred toward North Americans."

State Dept. review completed

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Indications are, however, that the anti-US campaign is unlikely to have significant results quickly. The US Embassy found that reactions among Dominicans to President Johnson's 28 May speech at Baylor University were excellent among political moderates and among non-Communists who sympathize with the rebel cause. Several professional people who are politically neutral have stressed that the President's moderate position and his emphasis on the need for a better chance for the less privileged provide the only reasonable way out of the present situation. The only unenthusiastic responses to the President's speech came from among the strongest supporters of the Imbert government. One of them commented dourly that "unfortunately, the President's speech was perfectly impartial."

Meanwhile, yesterday's disturbances in the city of San Francisco de Macoris provide another indication of the growing danger of trouble in the interior as a political settlement in Santo Domingo continues to be delayed. Information provided to a US Government officer who visited San Francisco de Macoris immediately after the disturbance reveals that it was stimulated by known leftist and Communist agitators. While the police were busy trying to control a leftist-incited crowd, another group entered the back door of the police station in an effort to capture arms. This attempt failed and one member of the group, a member of the pro-Castro 14th of June Political Group, was killed. There was another death when a stray bullet killed a butcher who was working in his shop.

The rebels have predictably seized on the San Francisco de Macoris incident to demonstrate the "brutality" of the Imbert government in the face of a people "determined to gain their freedom regardless of the price." A broadcast on the rebel-controlled radio yesterday called for an immediate investigation of the incident by the Human

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Rights Commission of the Organization of American States. Rebel Foreign Minister Jottin Cury sent off a request for such an investigation to the OAS last night.

Conditions remain calm, though uneasy, in the rest of the country. An anti-Communist demonstration in Monte Cristi yesterday did not have an entirely beneficial effect. Billed as a popular protest against Communism, it was also apparently used to promote the cause of Antonio Imbert. This caused resentment among some of the participants. Participation was heavily drawn from rural areas and there were vitriolic verbal exchanges between the city people and those who came in from the countryside. There were no incidents until the meeting was about to break up when four teenagers were arrested for throwing rocks.

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